



# GOSNOLD

## Dukes County



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## NARRATIVE

### Narrative

The geography of Gosnold differs from that of other Massachusetts municipalities since the town consists of a chain of a dozen islands running westward from Woods Hole between Buzzard's Bay and Vineyard Sound. In 1602 Bartholomew Gosnold made landfall at Cuttyhunk, one of the larger islands, and gave the Elizabeth Islands group its name.

The history of Gosnold also differs from other cities and towns, since the clustered chunks of land were so small they were usually not named separately in the grants and sales of the properties of the New World, but changed owners attached to one or another vast holding. The islands were under the control of the Dutch in New York until 1691 when they passed by charter into the hands of the English of the Massachusetts Bay Colony. In 1688 a permanent settler in Gosnold, Ralph Earle Jr., built his house, the first of a small, hardy island population, while Captain Kidd anchored in one of Gosnold's harbors in 1699 just before he was captured for piracy. Succeeding owners like Major General Wait Steel Winthrop and James Bowdoin of Boston developed their property as a country estate, stocking it with deer and turkeys. In 1759, one of the earliest lighthouses was built on Naushon at Tarpaulin Cove and six years later, a light was built on Cuttyhunk to warn of the disastrous reefs near the islands.

Residents of the islands fought for almost two centuries to become independent of the Town of Chilmark to which they were attached. In 1863, the 16 legal voters of Gosnold claimed they were not being fairly represented and finally succeeded in getting permission to establish an autonomous town. Many of the islands have had a relatively uneventful history, as Naushon Island shows. In all of its history, Naushon has only been owned by three families; the Winthrops were proprietors for 48 years, the Bowdoins for 115 years and the Forbes for 147 years have been Masters of Naushon.

A life saving station was established and commissioned in 1890 on Cuttyhunk to try to save those shipwrecked. Also on Cuttyhunk, a round tower built of stone with a set of circular steps and a look-out deck marks the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Gosnold's discovery. Still peaceful and windswept, Gosnold shelters yachtsmen cruising the waters of Vineyard Sound or Buzzard's Bay, provides summer homes to some and year-round homes to a handful as one of the smallest communities in the Commonwealth.

(Narrative compiled from historical materials)



# GEOGRAPHY

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## Location

No information

**Total Area:** 132.24 sq. miles

**Land Area:** 13.34 sq. miles

**Population:** 98

**Density:** 7 per sq. mile

## Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Edgartown Station)

Normal temperature in January.....29.3°F

Normal temperature in July.....69.8°F

Normal annual precipitation.....45.3"

## U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Naushon Island, Cuttyhunk, Woods Hole

## Regional Planning Agency

Martha's Vineyard

## Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)



# GOVERNMENT

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## Municipal Offices

Main Number: (508) 990-7408

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

## Form of Government

Board of Selectmen

Open Town Meeting

## Year Incorporated

As a town: 1864

## Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

	Number	%	
Total Registered	124		
Democrats	16	12.9	%
Republicans	20	16.1	%
Other parties	0	0.0	%
Unenrolled Voters	88	71.0	%

## Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



# DEMOGRAPHICS

**Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000**

Geographic Area: Gosnold town, Dukes County, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	86	100.0	HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE		
SEX AND AGE			Total population.....	86	100.0
Male.....	50	58.1	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	-	-
Female.....	36	41.9	Mexican.....	-	-
Under 5 years.....	5	5.8	Puerto Rican.....	-	-
5 to 9 years.....	6	7.0	Cuban.....	-	-
10 to 14 years.....	3	3.5	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	-	-
15 to 19 years.....	2	2.3	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	86	100.0
20 to 24 years.....	4	4.7	White alone.....	82	95.3
25 to 34 years.....	14	16.3	RELATIONSHIP		
35 to 44 years.....	14	16.3	Total population.....	86	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	17	19.8	In households.....	86	100.0
55 to 59 years.....	5	5.8	Householder.....	46	53.5
60 to 64 years.....	5	5.8	Spouse.....	16	18.6
65 to 74 years.....	8	9.3	Child.....	20	23.3
75 to 84 years.....	2	2.3	Own child under 18 years.....	15	17.4
85 years and over.....	1	1.2	Other relatives.....	-	-
Median age (years).....	41.5	(X)	Under 18 years.....	-	-
18 years and over.....	71	82.6	Nonrelatives.....	4	4.7
Male.....	42	48.8	Unmarried partner.....	3	3.5
Female.....	29	33.7	In group quarters.....	-	-
21 years and over.....	69	80.2	Institutionalized population.....	-	-
62 years and over.....	14	16.3	Noninstitutionalized population.....	-	-
65 years and over.....	11	12.8	HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE		
Male.....	6	7.0	Total households.....	46	100.0
Female.....	5	5.8	Family households (families).....	21	45.7
RACE			With own children under 18 years.....	8	17.4
One race.....	82	95.3	Married-couple family.....	16	34.8
White.....	82	95.3	With own children under 18 years.....	6	13.0
Black or African American.....	-	-	Female householder, no husband present.....	4	8.7
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	-	-	With own children under 18 years.....	2	4.3
Asian.....	-	-	Nonfamily households.....	25	54.3
Asian Indian.....	-	-	Householder living alone.....	21	45.7
Chinese.....	-	-	Householder 65 years and over.....	3	6.5
Filipino.....	-	-	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	8	17.4
Japanese.....	-	-	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	9	19.6
Korean.....	-	-	Average household size.....	1.87	(X)
Vietnamese.....	-	-	Average family size.....	2.71	(X)
Other Asian <sup>1</sup> .....	-	-	HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	-	-	Total housing units.....	215	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	-	-	Occupied housing units.....	46	21.4
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	-	-	Vacant housing units.....	169	78.6
Samoa.....	-	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander <sup>2</sup> .....	-	-	occasional use.....	166	77.2
Some other race.....	-	-	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	-	(X)
Two or more races.....	4	4.7	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	-	(X)
Race alone or in combination with one			HOUSING TENURE		
or more other races: <sup>3</sup>			Occupied housing units.....	46	100.0
White.....	86	100.0	Owner-occupied housing units.....	17	37.0
Black or African American.....	-	-	Renter-occupied housing units.....	29	63.0
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	4	4.7	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	1.76	(X)
Asian.....	-	-	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	1.93	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	-	-			
Some other race.....	-	-			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

<sup>1</sup> Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

<sup>2</sup> Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

<sup>3</sup> In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



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# HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

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**Home Sales** (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

**Subsidized Housing Units** (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

**Public Housing Units** (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State: 0  
Conventional Federal: 0

**Rental Assistance**(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP: 0  
Federal (Section 8): 0



# TRANSPORTATION

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## TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

Local roads meet the requirements of modern transportation.

### Major Highways

There are no numbered state highways on Gosnold.

### Rail

There is no passenger or freight rail service on Gosnold.

### Bus

Gosnold is not affiliated with a regional transit authority.

### Other

The Barnstable Municipal Airport, a Primary Commercial Service (PR) facility located 1 mi. N of Hyannis, is accessible from Gosnold. It has 2 asphalt runways 5,249' and 5,430'. Instrument approaches available: Precision and non-precision.



# CULTURE AND RECREATION

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## LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

## MUSEUMS

(American Association of Museums)

None

## RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

**Recreational Facilities** (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



# MISCELLANEOUS

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## HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

### Hospitals

None

### Long Term Care

None

### Hospices

None

### Rest Homes

None

### UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)



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# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.